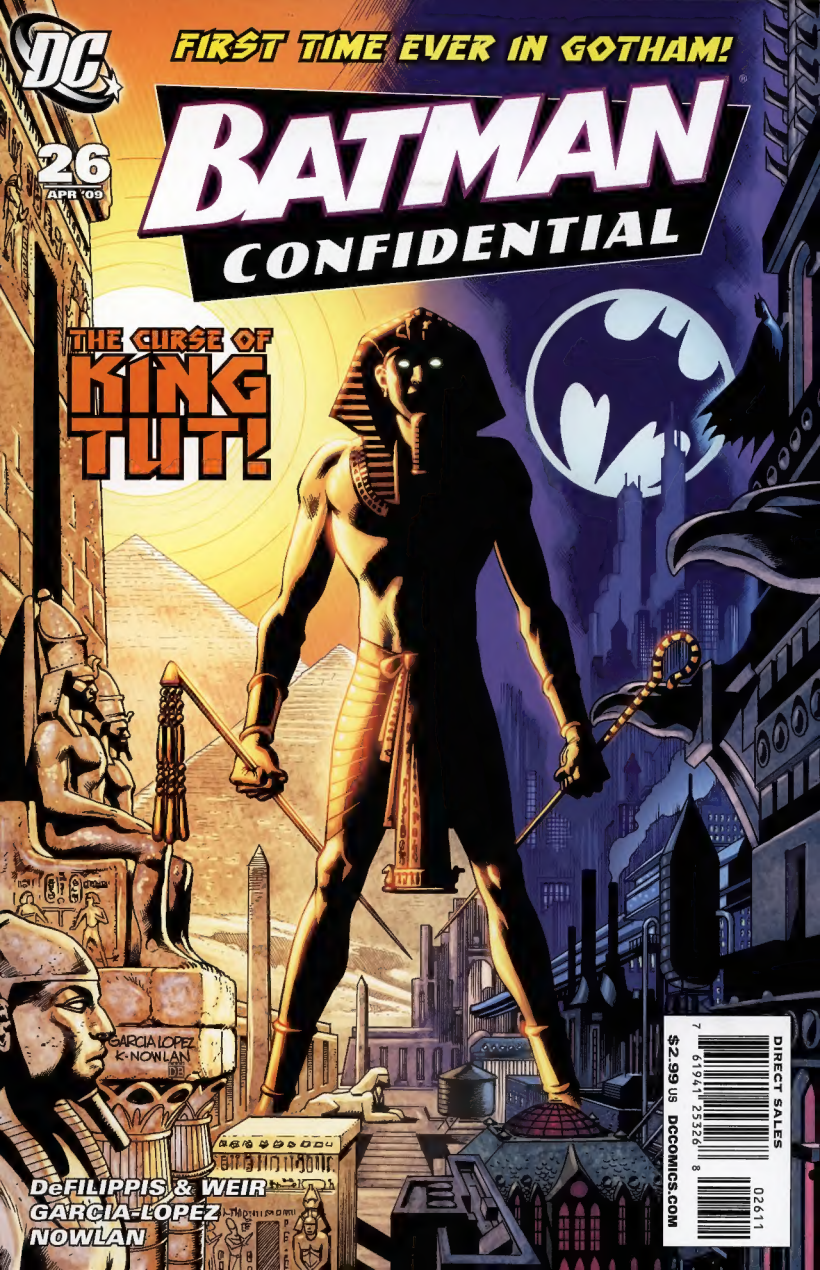
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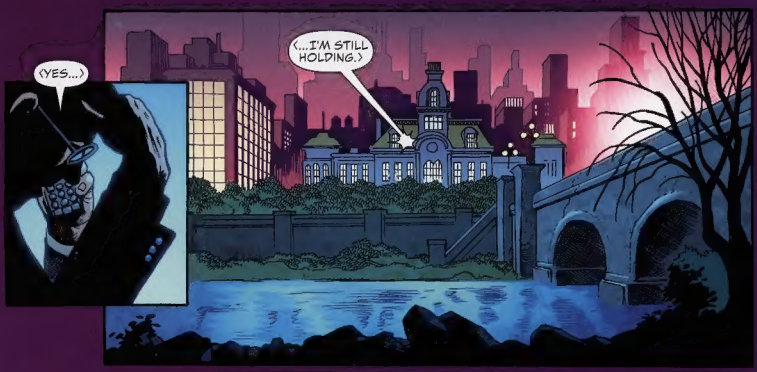
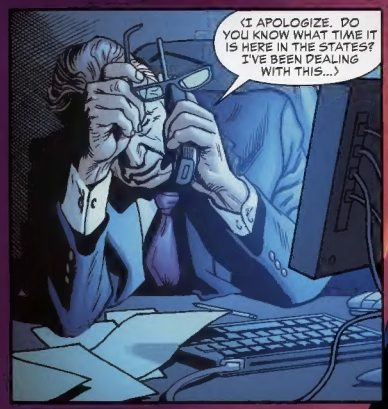

(YES...)
(...I'M STILL HOLDING.)

(THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. MY RECORDS SHOW THAT OUR ACQUISITIONS DEPARTMENT PAID YOU A *HUGE* SUM OF MONEY.)

(NOTHING? THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE!)
(NO, I MEAN *HUGE*. THERE HAS TO BE *SOME* RECORD...)


(I APOLOGIZE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS HERE IN THE STATES? I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS...)

(...ALL NIGHT...)

THE LONG NIGHT FOR GOTHAM IS OVER.
THE REIGN OF KING TUT BEGINS.
AND THE ERA OF THE SUN GOD COMES WITH HIM.
A NEW DAWN
Part One
Writers: Nunzio DeFilippis & Christina Weir
Penciller: Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez
Inker: Kevin Nowlan
Colorist: David Baron
Letterer: Ken Lopez
Associate Editor: Rachel Gluckstern
Editor: Mike Carlin
Batman created by Bob Kane

WHO... WHAT... ARE YOU?
"IT ALLOWS YOU TO SEE..."
NO... WAIT...
"...YET YOU CANNOT GAZE UPON IT."
"AND EVEN WHEN YOU CANNOT SEE..."
SHKK
EEEEYAAAAGH
AAAAH... AAAH... MY EYES...
"...ITS PRESENCE IS ALWAYS FELT."

...ALLOWS YOU TO SEE...
EMS
EMS

...CANNOT GAZE UPON IT...

...EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE...

...PRESENCE ALWAYS FELT...

AARON...?

DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO RONDEAU?

HE WAS ATTACKED AT THE MUSEUM. YEAH, I HEARD.
NOT JUST THAT. HE WAS GOING OVER THE MUSEUM'S *FINANCES* AT THE TIME.

YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, LEIGH?
WE SHIFTED THE MUSEUM'S FINANCES TO ACQUISITIONS *TOGETHER*.
BUT NOW IT'S *GONE*.
THE DIRECTOR STARTS TO LOOK INTO IT...AND HE GETS *ATTACKED*.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
YOU THINK THAT I STOLE THE MONEY? THAT I ATTACKED RONDEAU?
WE HAD A PLAN. SOMEONE TOOK THAT MONEY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
IF NOT YOU...?

LISTEN, LEIGH. STEALING THAT MONEY WAS YOUR IDEA, NOT MINE.
NOW I'M SOME MASTER CRIMINAL? CUTTING YOU OUT OF THE DEAL AND ASSAULTING EARL?

THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.
THEN WHO ATTACKED RONDEAU?

IT'S GOTHAM. COULD BE ANYBODY.

HELLO, DEAR. HOW WAS WORK TODAY?
THE USUAL.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

HONEY... CALL THE POLICE.
"ITS PRESENCE IS FEARED..."
"...YET IT IS NOTHING."
"IT MARKS THE ABSENCE OF THE UNSEEN..."
"...YET IT IS INVISIBLE."
MA'AM...?

AND THAT'S ALL SHE CAN REMEMBER?
IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAME ASSAILANT.
IT LOOKS AS IF WE HAVE ANOTHER COSTUMED LUNATIC ON OUR HANDS.
THIS ONE THINKS HE'S KING TUT OR SOMETHING.
CAN YOU MEET ME AT ARKHAM?
GET ME IN?
SURE, BUT...
OF COURSE. THE RIDDLES.
BUT I'VE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT A BREAKOUT. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, HE'S STILL IN CUSTODY.
LIKE THAT WOULD STOP HIM?

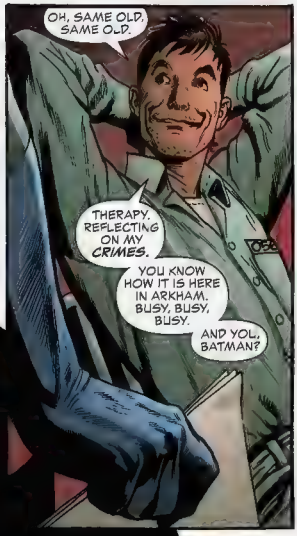
ARKHAM ASYLUM
FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

COMMISSIONER GORDON...

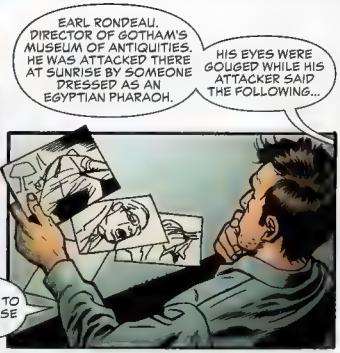
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE--?
10543

I SEE.
A DOUBLE SURPRISE. HOW *EXCITING*.

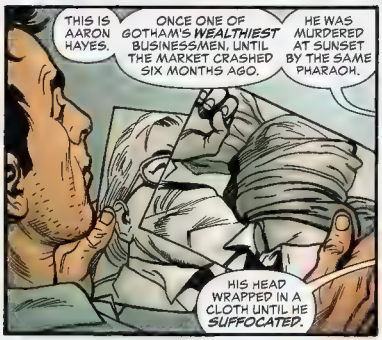
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, NIGMA?

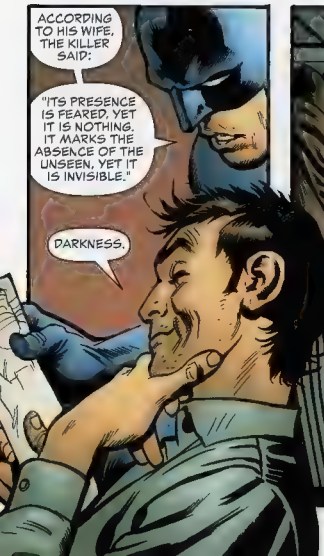

OH, SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
THERAPY. REFLECTING ON MY *CRIMES*.
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS HERE IN ARKHAM. BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.
AND YOU, BATMAN?

OKAY... AND WE'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT, I SEE.
SLAM!
AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THESE MEN?


EARL RONDEAU, DIRECTOR OF GOTHAM'S MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES. HE WAS ATTACKED THERE AT SUNRISE BY SOMEONE DRESSED AS AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH.
HIS EYES WERE GOUGED WHILE HIS ATTACKER SAID THE FOLLOWING...

"IT ALLOWS YOU TO SEE, YET YOU CANNOT GAZE UPON IT. AND EVEN WHEN YOU CANNOT SEE, ITS PRESENCE IS ALWAYS FELT."
THAT'S EASY. SUNLIGHT.


THIS IS AARON HAYES.
ONCE ONE OF GOTHAM'S WEALTHIEST BUSINESSMEN, UNTIL THE MARKET CRASHED SIX MONTHS AGO.
HE WAS MURDERED AT SUNSET BY THE SAME PHARAOH.
HIS HEAD WRAPPED IN A CLOTH UNTIL HE SUFFOCATED.


ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, THE KILLER SAID:
"ITS PRESENCE IS FEARED, YET IT IS NOTHING. IT MARKS THE ABSENCE OF THE UNSEEN, YET IT IS INVISIBLE."
DARKNESS.

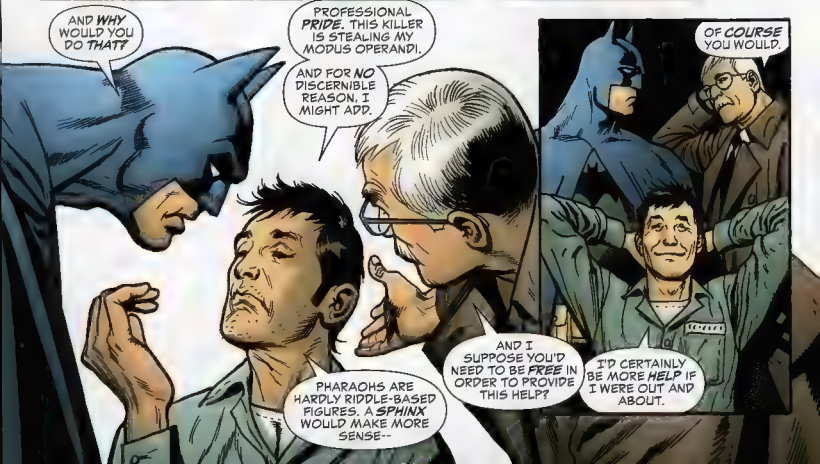
REALLY, BATMAN... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THIS. BUT IF YOU INSIST, I'LL HELP YOU.
HELP ME?

YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR MY HELP?

YOU THINK I DID THIS?

AND IF YOU DID, WE'LL FIND OUT.
IF YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OUT TO COMMIT THESE CRIMES, OR IF YOU'RE IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE ON THE OUTSIDE--
THEN YOU'D NEVER CATCH ME.
NO OFFENSE, COMMISSIONER, BUT YOU'RE JUST NOT SMART ENOUGH.

STILL, THAT IS IRRELEVANT, SINCE I DID NOT DO THIS.
HOWEVER, I CAN HELP YOU CATCH WHOEVER DID.


AND WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
PROFESSIONAL PRIDE. THIS KILLER IS STEALING MY MODUS OPERANDI.
AND FOR NO DISCERNIBLE REASON, I MIGHT ADD.
OF COURSE YOU WOULD.
PHARAOHS ARE HARDLY RIDDLE-BASED FIGURES. A SPHINX WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE--
AND I SUPPOSE YOU'D NEED TO BE FREE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THIS HELP?
I'D CERTAINLY BE MORE HELP IF I WERE OUT AND ABOUT.

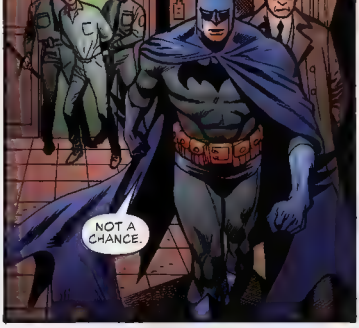
WE'RE DONE HERE.

WAIT! YOU NEED ME. I THINK IN RIDDLES.
WHICH IS WHY WE CAN'T TRUST YOU. THIS WHOLE THING COULD BE A SETUP TO TRICK US INTO FREEING YOU.
NO DEAL.

I'VE NO DOUBT YOU CAN SOLVE THE RIDDLES, BATMAN. BUT I CAN ANTICIPATE THEM.
THE NEXT CRIME...IT WILL BE AT SUNRISE. THE VICTIM WILL PROBABLY BE KILLED IN THE SHOWER OR TUB.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
SIMPLE DEDUCTION. I LOOKED AT THE EVIDENCE YOU GAVE ME. NOTHING MORE, I ASSURE YOU.

AND WHO WILL THE NEXT VICTIM BE?
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PREVIOUS VICTIMS. BUT I CAN HELP YOU.
IF MY GUESS PROVES RIGHT, WILL YOU CONSIDER MY OFFER?

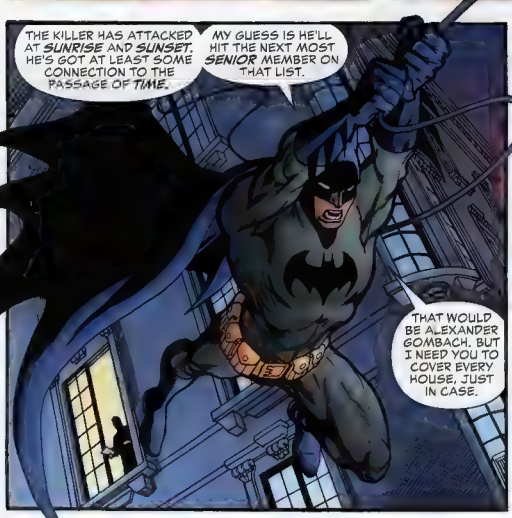

NOT A CHANCE.

RIDDLER IS PROBABLY LYING, BUT HIS RIDDLES ALWAYS PLAY FAIR.
IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY THE NEXT VICTIM WILL BE KILLED IN THE SHOWER...
WHILE DEDUCING NIGMA'S PLAN IS IMPORTANT, SHOULD YOU NOT FOCUS ON WHAT INFORMATION YOU DON'T HAVE?
SUNRISE IS APPROACHING, AND YOU NEED TO KNOW WHO WILL BE KILLED NEXT.
YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO EAT, BY THE WAY.
THE TWO VICTIMS HAVE LITTLE CONNECTING THEM.
HAYES GAVE MONEY TO THE MUSEUM, BUT NOT A LOT SINCE HIS BUSINESS STARTED TO FAIL.
THEN PERHAPS THE KILLER'S MOTIVATION COMES FROM SOME POINT IN THE PAST, WHEN HAYES' FORTUNES WERE... GREATER.
OF COURSE.
ALFRED, YOU'RE A GENIUS.
I AM ALSO, SIR, A MASTER CHEF.
THOUGH THAT HARDLY MATTERS ON DAYS LIKE THESE.

THE MUSEUM'S BOARD OF *TRUSTEES*.

AARON HAYES WAS ON THE BOARD UNTIL SIX MONTHS AGO. HERE'S A LIST OF TRUSTEES AT THAT TIME.
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, THE NEXT VICTIM IS SOMEONE ON THIS LIST.

GET UNITS TO EVERY HOUSE ON THAT LIST.
THERE ARE *THIRTEEN* NAMES HERE, INCLUDING HAYES.


THE KILLER HAS ATTACKED AT *SUNRISE* AND *SUNSET*. HE'S GOT AT LEAST SOME CONNECTION TO THE PASSAGE OF *TIME*.
MY GUESS IS HE'LL HIT THE NEXT MOST *SENIOR* MEMBER ON THAT LIST.
THAT WOULD BE ALEXANDER GOMBACH. BUT I NEED YOU TO COVER EVERY HOUSE, JUST IN CASE.

BULLOCK! I'M GONNA NEED SQUAD CARS SENT TO TWELVE ADDRESSES
NOW!

WHEE-OOOO! WHEE-OOOO! WHEE-
STORM
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
OOO! WHEE-OOOO! WHEE-OOOO!

WHACK!

"IT IS A VIRTUE THAT DECAYS OVER TIME."
"IT IS A NATURAL STATE, YET CONSTANT EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO RENEW IT."
"FOR THE MOMENT IT IS ACHIEVED IS THE MOMENT IT STARTS TO FADE."
SHK!

YOU...THE BATMAN. YOU CLAIM TO FIGHT THE DARKNESS THAT CONSUMES THIS CITY.
THK
BUT YOU ARE A PART OF THE ETERNAL NIGHT THAT HAS BEFALLEN GOTHAM. YOU ARE A CREATURE OF THAT NIGHT.
YOU NEED THE DARKNESS. YOU FEED IT.
YOU WILL NEED TO BE VANQUISHED IN ORDER FOR THE ONE TRUE GOD TO SHINE IN HIS GREATNESS AND BRING DAYLIGHT TO THIS CITY.
OOOFIK

POLICE!

WHERE'S TUT?
THERE'S NOBODY ELSE HERE. HE MUST HAVE *FLED*.
HOW'S THE TARGET?

DAMN

HE WAS DROWNED IN THE TUB. TUT'S NEXT RIDDLE WAS ABOUT *CLEANLINESS*.
RIDDLER *KNEW*.

SO YOU'RE THINKING HE CAN HELP US?
OR THAT HE'S *BEHIND* IT ALL.

I ASSURE YOU, HE'S BEEN HERE SINCE YOU LEFT.

HE'S PROBABLY STILL ASLEEP.
THEN HUMOR US AND WAKE HIM.

0713
MISTER NIGMA... EDWARD?
EDWARD? IT'S DR. RUSSERT.

YOU HAVE VISITORS.

WONDERFUL...
NO OFFENSE, BATMAN, BUT I *HATE* IT WHEN YOU'RE *RIGHT*.
To be continued...

Black Adam! Isis! Dissension in the ranks! An uncertain future!

As you can see, there is a lot going on in JSA these days. Many of you are curious about what the future holds for the team, so we're going to shed some light on the situation this month.

As you probably know by now, JSA #23-25 features the return of the Black Marvel family in a major way. Written by **Geoff Johns** and **Jerry Ordway**, this tale features the epic confrontation between the JSA and Black Adam for control of the Rock of Eternity. By the end of this story there will be a new status quo for several characters, and the stage will be set for further events in 2009. This story has been a long time in the making and we're thrilled to bring it to you.

Up next is a very special issue of JSA. JSA #26 is the final issue of the series by the creative team of **Geoff Johns** and **Dale Eaglesham**. The passion and creative brilliance these two have brought to JSA over their run is nothing short of incredible. They have set a very high standard, which we will do our absolute best to maintain. This issue doesn't so much say goodbye as it does set the table for things to come. To commemorate the occasion, JLA #26 features not one, but three covers by **Alex Ross**. Please allow me to take this moment to thank Geoff, Dale and Alex on behalf of the entire DC Nation for all of their hard work on JSA.

So what's next? JSA #27 and 28 focus on the younger members of the team and are brought to you by our good friend Jerry Ordway. Then starting in issue #29, we're proud to introduce the new writing team of **Bill Willingham** and **Mathew Sturges**. You know these guys from the Fables universe, and they have something really special in store for their first arc on the series. Now, I can't give too much away, but we'll see new team members, lots of villains and the beginning of a mystery that will introduce one of the greatest threats the JSA has ever faced. It's going to be a wild ride, and trust me when I say that you're not going to see the end coming. Please help us in welcoming Mathew and Bill onboard.

As you can see, there are serious changes and challenges coming down the road for the JSA. Will the team survive intact? You're going to have to tune in to find out

—Ian.

NEXT IN...
BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #27
The saga of King Tut continues – with the Riddler!

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